

TIMES-VIRGINIAN
IN THE HEART OF THE DARK TOBACCO BELT
APPOMATTOX, VIRGINIA
ESTABLISHED 1892
Alvin H. Robinson, Editor and Publisher
Member Virginia Press Association.

Entered as second-class matter at the Post-office at Appomattox, Va. under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.
Address all correspondence to The Times-Virginian, Appomattox, Va. Subscription rates: \$1.50 year; 75c six months, payable in advance.

Thursday, May 22, 1940

EDITORIAL

Let's Get On With the Real Job

In the dark days that are ahead of America and in the face of the probability that the United States will be drawn into the death grapple beyond the Atlantic, let two facts be recalled:

(1) In the last war the Democratic party handled the spending of tremendous sums in feverish haste to prepare us to fight in France, and when it was over America had the army and navy, and never was there a sliver of scandal or misused funds.

(2) Between 1920 and 1932 the Republican party was in power and in that period scrapped our great navy, trimmed our army to a mere skeleton and scuffed at adequate air defenses. In 1930 we were supreme in national defense. In 1932 we had sunk to low levels of defense. Since 1932 the Democratic party has sought to recover the lost ground, and on its record in handling the defense of the nation in the World War are merited the confidence of the people in the present crisis.

This is time for partisan politics. And it is no time to wrangle, a hot presidential race. Frankly, we haven't got time to examine the merits of Mr. Dewey. The major task confronting us is to get the hands of the brave and the home of the free. If the President feels it best not to accept a third term, then by all means let him resign. By resignation, let us elect Cordell Hull, and ask Mr. Roosevelt to be Secretary of State. If the President is willing to continue his service, then let the nation be practical enough to realize that he will be re-elected, and instead of meddling over politics, let us get on with building those AIRPLANES!!!

LEAVES US WHERE WE STARTED

The Petersburg Progress-Index. "The king of France went up the hill," the king of France came down the hill. This is the story of the new leader of the world, who appears to have been duplicated by the ten college presidents appointed a committee to study and report on the situation in Virginia's higher educational system. First reactions to the final conclusions of the group show disappointment in its findings.

The Richmond Times Dispatch calls it "an unrealistic report" while the New Leader pretends it is "an application." Yet why should be disappointed when these learned gentlemen were merely cursorily patting each other on the back? For instance it would have been unselfish, if not imprudent, for the president of one college to institute to another his institution was a fifth wheel in our educational set-up or that he was only duplicating the work of another. No Virginia gentleman would do such a thing.

Several years ago Virginia about decided that there is no necessity for four separate colleges for women, that there are too many institutions training young people for the law, medicine, engineering and so on. They thought this could be done more efficiently in fewer, better equipped plants. But the committee finds:

"All of the colleges are running at almost maximum capacity; none can be dispensed with wisely, for to discontinue one of the colleges would entail additional capital expenditures at this time involving inefficiency and confusion during the change.... The somewhat varied curricula provided give a desirable diversity of offerings."

The committee does not believe consolidation and elimination of a few colleges and overlapping courses of instruction would make for efficiency or economy for the additional capital expenditures. It loses sight of the essential fact that multiplication of schools and their upkeep dip into educational funds, depriving more young people of an opportunity to train for the professions.

Notwithstanding our high respect for the ability and opinions of these distinguished educators we fail to see where they have given anything of practical value to guide us in securing a better system of higher education at no greater cost and to keep it down to a point within the ability of the state to pay. The committee leaves of where it started, which may be attributable to a natural conservatism of interests. We say this without meaning any offense to the committee.

Civilian begin flight from Paris.

ALL AMERICA SHOULD UNITE TO SUPPORT DEFENSE PLANS

Franklin D. Roosevelt's personal appeal to a joint session of Congress for immediate and complete preparedness was admirably conceived and dramatically delivered. The situation, which confronts the country is serious. It calls for good leadership in the highest office of the land. And President Roosevelt met the situation in a truly good and a truly AMERICAN manner.

Mr. Roosevelt said all that need be said, and, in fact, all that can be said, on the subject of American security and defense. He said that "the developments of the past few weeks have made it clear to all our citizens that the possibility of attack on vital American homes ought to be met with the same readiness as the attack on the life of the nation." He said, moreover, that "the means military implements—NOT ON PAPER—'which are ready and available to meet any lightning offense against our American interest."

It means also that facilities for production must be ready to turn to war material and equipment at top speed. Mr. Roosevelt has gone straight to the heart of the matter. He has designated AMERICAN interest which is vitally involved in AMERICAN security which is endangered and AMERICAN defense which must be provided.

The process of protecting AMERICA is where an American President and all American leadership words, the fulfillment of this covenant was dependent on the faithfulness of the people. We know that if European civilization is destined to fall apart, that is monstrously and regrettable, but beyond our power to prevent. But the safety and security of America and the preservation of AMERICAN civilization are not beyond our power to prevent.

Mr. Roosevelt said, in effect, that a future safety will be secured by the nation's unarmored neutrality or peaceful intentions, and that is eminently and profoundly true.

He said, in effect, that modern warfare, whether we like it or not, has made the possession of invincible air power the requisite of any nation's security, and therefore:

"We should like to see this nation stand up to the ability to 'go out at least fifty thousand planes a year.' Furthermore, I believe this nation should plan at this time a program that would provide us with fifty thousand military and naval planes."

The President is thinking, talking and acting completely American. He is being not the Good Samaritan, but the GOOD AMERICAN. Now, we can look forward to having not just 50 new airplanes for America, but we can expect to have ships instead of blueprints.

Now we can have assurance and confidence that in the halls of government at least the first and perhaps the only thought is for America. President Roosevelt has shown us a course which we may devoutly hope will keep us a peaceful nation, but which, in any event, will PREPARE us as a free nation.

He has the undoubted and overwhelming support of the American people when he says:

"Our defenses must be invulnerable—our security absolute." From Baltimore News-Post.

Let us do your job printing.

IMPROVED SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Lesson for May 26

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Irish Free State Welcomes U. S. Minister



David Grey, right, newly appointed minister to the Irish Free State, delivering his credentials to Dublin castle. De Valera, first president of a free Ireland, was born in the United States. A fast and a British flying squad after the rebellion of 1916.

Tree-Top Table



Here's something new in tables, displayed at Chicago's Merchandise Mart. The table will hold a six-foot tree. Julia McCarthy is admiring the new home furnishings.

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Know That You Look Well



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